

OUR LADY OF LOURDES ACADEMY

• Mr. NELSON of Florida. Mr. President, today I congratulate Our Lady of Lourdes Academy for its success in the national final of We the People: The Citizen and the Constitution. This competition is designed to educate young people about the U.S. Constitution and Bill of Rights. I am pleased to announce that Our Lady of Lourdes Academy from Miami, FL placed fourth in the competition. It is fitting that I make this statement just as we celebrate my friend from West Virginia, Senator BYRD, who has spent a lifetime talking about the need for our kids to learn about our Constitution.

The We the People national final is a 3-day academic competition that simulates a congressional hearing in which the students "testify" before a panel of judges on constitutional topics. Students demonstrate their knowledge and understanding of constitutional principles as they debate positions on relevant historical and contemporary issues. Mr. President, the names of these outstanding students from Our Lady of Lourdes Academy are: Nicole Azzi, Marta Bakas, Heidi Balsa, Caroline Buckler, Victoria Cabrera, Tatiana Estrada, Christi Falco, Monica Font, Gabrielle Gonzalez, Patricia Herold, Kristina Infante, Janine Lopez, Vanessa Mallol, Christina Martinez, Nina Martinez, Alina Mejer, Natalie Mencion, Natalie Perez, Gabriela Rosell, Anita Viciano, and Erica Watkins. They are taught by Rosie Heffernan. Additional recognition goes to Annette Boyd Pitts and John Doyle, who help coordinate the program in the great State of Florida.

Mr. President and my colleagues in the Senate, please join me in congratulating these young constitutional scholars for their outstanding achievement.●

TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF JEAN SULLIVAN

• Mr. SHELBY. Mr. President, today, I wish to honor the life of Jean Sullivan, who was instrumental in making the Alabama Republican Party what it is today. Jean gracefully represented Alabama for 20 years while serving as a powerful force on the Republican National Committee. She was a close personal friend of mine, and I deeply respected her.

Long before Alabama became a red State on the national election map, Jean was fighting to gain popularity for the party she so adamantly supported. She worked on the forefront of molding what the Republican Party would mean for Alabama. Her efforts in promoting and electing Republican candidates are undeniable. She was outspoken and unafraid to fight for what she believed. Her energy will be missed in our State.

Jean was hard-working, energetic, and a true Republican icon. I am proud of her efforts, and I am grateful for her

endless dedication to Alabama politics. I know she will be missed not only by her three sons, Kent, Arthur, and Jim Sullivan, her two daughters, Teresa Collins and Connie McAfee, and her many friends, but also by the many people she worked with and inspired in Alabama politics.●

TRIBUTE TO LIEUTENANT COLONEL STEPHEN M. PARKE

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I honor LTC Stephen M. Parke. This month Lieutenant Colonel Parke retired from the U.S. Army after nearly 21 years of faithful service to his country.

Lieutenant Colonel Parke is a native of Rapid City, SD. He is also a graduate of the University of South Dakota and the South Dakota School of Law. Lieutenant Colonel Parke then went on to be on the staff of the Judge Advocate. His service has taken him all over the United States as well as to the far corners of the world to places such as Alaska, Kentucky, Virginia, Maryland, Korea, and Cuba.

Throughout his years of service, Lieutenant Colonel Parke has advanced through the ranks, from captain to major and finally to lieutenant colonel. Lieutenant Colonel Parke's exemplary service has earned him several major awards and decorations. These include the Humanitarian Service Medal, the Defense Meritorious Service Medal, and the Meritorious Service Medal with four Oak Leaf Clusters.

It is with great honor that I remember and honor the service provided by LTC Stephen M. Parke to his country. On behalf of a grateful State and a grateful Nation, I wish Lieutenant Colonel Parke all the best in his retirement.●

150TH ANNIVERSARY OF SIOUX FALLS, SOUTH DAKOTA

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to recognize Sioux Falls, SD. The city of Sioux Falls will celebrate the 150th anniversary of its founding this year.

Located in Minnehaha County, Sioux Falls was founded on the banks of the Big Sioux River. The city of Sioux Falls began after speculators from the Western Town Company claimed the town site in 1856. Sioux Falls has been a successful thriving community for the past 150 years, and I am confident it will continue to grow and prosper.

I offer my congratulations to Sioux Falls on their anniversary, and I wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF WENTWORTH, SD

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I pay tribute to Wentworth, SD. The town of Wentworth will celebrate the 125th anniversary of its founding this year.

Located in Lake County, Wentworth was founded in 1881 as an agricultural town. Wentworth has been a successful and thriving community for the past 125 years, and I am confident that it will continue to serve as an example of South Dakota values and traditions in the future.

I offer my congratulations to Wentworth on their anniversary, and I wish them continued prosperity in the years to come.●

TRIBUTE TO RUTH ZIOLKOWSKI

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize the 80th birthday of Mrs. Ruth Ziolkowski.

Ruth Ziolkowski immigrated to South Dakota in 1947 to help Korczak Ziolkowski begin work on the Crazy Horse Memorial sculpture. The two were married in 1950. Since then, Crazy Horse Memorial has made monumental progress with the completion of Crazy Horses' face in 1998 and the building of the access road to the top. To this day, Crazy Horse receives no Federal grant money, relying solely on Ruth's rock-solid dedication to fundraising. As a result of this dedication, Mrs. Ziolkowski has been presented with countless awards and honors over the years. Her unwavering commitment to the arts and to South Dakota has helped to make this powerful monument a reality.

It gives me great pleasure to commemorate the 80th birthday of Ruth Ziolkowski and to wish her continued success in the years to come.●

100TH ANNIVERSARY OF CROCKER, SOUTH DAKOTA

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Crocker, SD. The town of Crocker will celebrate the 100th anniversary of its founding this year.

Located in Clark County, Crocker was founded as an agricultural town in 1906. Crocker is just one example of what has made South Dakota the place it is today.

I offer my congratulations to Crocker on their centennial.●

125TH ANNIVERSARY OF GROTON, SOUTH DAKOTA

• Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize Groton, SD, which is celebrating its 125th Anniversary this year.

Located in northeastern South Dakota, Groton was originally developed as a railroad town with the Chicago, Milwaukee and St. Paul Railroad rail lines running through town. In fact, the city was named after Groton, MA, because the railroad officials traveling through Groton were already familiar with the name. Groton is a welcoming community with many great traditions including their ice skating festival, the Carnival of Silver Skates.